

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention is a gravity-sensitive latch. The latch includes a pendulum pivotally secured between the actuating button or handle and the pawl. When the latch is in a first position, gravity acting on the pendulum rotates the pendulum so that it abuts the button or handle, permitting actuation of the latch. 5 When the latch is in a second orientation, gravity acting on the pendulum rotates the pendulum away from the button or handle, thereby preventing actuation of the latch. The latch may use a wide variety of buttons, handles, or pawl/keeper combinations.

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